



SACRAMENTO - SAN JOAQUIN
DELTA CONSERVANCY

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<http://www.deltaconservancy.ca.gov>

Update for Strategic Plan and Policy Subcommittee

Requested Action. Provide feedback and direction to staff regarding the Strategic Plan, work groups, public outreach, and special projects (Executive Fellowship Program).

Strategic Plan RFP

As announced in the August 17, 2011, Board meeting, Kearns and West, Inc. was the most responsible bidder with the highest score. The Agreement was forwarded to the Department of General Services (DGS) for its review, and will be final upon DGS approval. Conservancy staff anticipates an October 1 start date for the consultants.

The Subcommittee anticipates meeting with Kearns and West at its Monday, October 3, 2011, meeting to help define the work plan for the Strategic Plan. The Subcommittee invites all interested Board members and liaisons to participate in that meeting.

Workgroups

All workgroups with the exception of the Delta Plan workgroup are still on hiatus. Workgroups will resume after the consultant team begins work.

Cindy Messer provided an update to the Subcommittee regarding the Delta Plan and the Delta Plan work group. Comments to the latest Delta Plan are due September 30. The Conservancy has two primary concerns regarding the latest Delta Plan draft:

1. The Delta Plan only lists the Conservancy as responsible for ecosystem restoration in the Delta. The Conservancy needs them to recognize our co-equal responsibilities of ecosystem restoration and economic development. The Conservancy is concerned, in the context of the Delta Plan, of being limited in how it will be able to meet its mandates if the full nature of our mandates is not accurately addressed.
2. Chapter 9 identifies \$10 million to go to the Delta Conservancy. More information is needed as to what this amount really means; for example, is it a \$10 million annual operating budget or is it spread out over several years? If the latter, how many years?

The recommendations of the Delta Plan work group will be submitted to the Board at its September 21, 2011 meeting.

Outreach Meetings

Conservancy staff presented information to the Subcommittee regarding the questions and comments that were brought up during the August Delta Community Outreach meetings. In particular, the Subcommittee addressed the question about defining the Conservancy's advocacy role.

Campbell Ingram told the Subcommittee about the Conservancy being asked, repeatedly, whether it is "for or against" the Peripheral Canal; there is an inferred message that if the Conservancy isn't "against" the Peripheral Canal, then many residents in the Delta do not see any value in having a Conservancy. This sort of question presents a challenge, not the least of which is what the Conservancy is allowed to do under its enabling legislation.

The Subcommittee agreed that focusing on a set of guiding principles would allow the Subcommittee, Board, and staff to respond to issues quickly and cohesively. Staff will provide the Subcommittee with a set of principles drafted from those in the Interim Strategic Plan and informed by the principles provided by the Delta Counties Coalition and the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. The list of principles will not be longer than one page.

The Subcommittee also discussed the need for the Conservancy to distinguish itself from the other entities involved in the Delta; this will also assist in drawing the "bright line" between what the Conservancy needs to accomplish and links to other initiatives. Conservancy staff will follow up on the suggestion to provide a graphic presentation of the "silos" regarding state entities in the Delta.

There was a consensus that the Conservancy needs to continue its outreach efforts by meeting Delta residents on their own ground, and that building trust between the Conservancy and all the other entities—including Delta residents—will take time.

Executive Fellows Program

The Conservancy was selected by the CSU-Sacramento Executive Fellows Program to be the subject of a group project by six of this year's executive fellows. Conservancy staff and Executive Fellows staff developed an initial idea and work plan.

The project will require the six fellows to investigate law enforcement issues in the Delta related to public access to lands adjacent to private property and from increased recreation and tourist use of Delta lands, such as levees. The project will assess current conditions, current needs, projected future needs, and mechanisms for enhanced enforcement and funding. A final report and presentation to the Board are expected in May 2012, and will include policy recommendations.

The Subcommittee provided direction to staff regarding who the fellows should contact (e.g., county and state parks, reclamation districts, and county farm bureaus) in addition to county sheriffs. The Subcommittee also requested to be kept informed throughout these fellows progress to provide feedback and comment regarding the students' research and report.

Attachments

Attachment 10.1A: Summary of Statement of Work (SOW)

Attachment 10.1B: Questions from the Delta Community Outreach Meetings

Attachment 10.1C: Executive Fellows Proposal Memo

Contact

Nancy Ullrey, Program Lead
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy
(916) 375-2087

Attachment 10.1A: Summary of Statement of Work (SOW)**Phases, Tasks, and Deliverables to Complete Strategic Plan***Kearns and West, Inc. Proposal Summary*

Kearns and West, Inc.'s proposal was to provide the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Conservancy) support to complete its Strategic Plan in a four-phased approach. The work will comprise a variety of tasks that will include directing and managing the overall Strategic Plan effort, evaluating Strategic Plan-related technical and policy issues, evaluating and recommending approaches to integrating the Strategic Plan with other related and developing plans, evaluating and developing and recommending objectives, strategies, criteria, and performance measures for a variety of topics, providing graphic and publishing services support, and providing communications and outreach services.

The phases and expected deliverables are as follows:

Phase 1: Organization, Research and Assessment, and Initial Public Input

Task 1: Develop Work Plan

Task 2: Conduct Research & Interviews for Issue Papers with Alternative Futures

Task 3: Facilitate Public Meetings for Strategic Plan Introduction and Public Input

Phase 2: Develop Plan Content: Objectives, Strategies, Criteria, and Performance Measures

Task 4: Develop Objectives & Strategies for Alternative Futures

Phase 3: Additional Public Review

Task 5: Drafting the Strategic Plan

Task 6: Facilitate Public Meetings/Workshops for Final Public Input

Phase 4: Final Strategic Plan

Task 7: Develop the Final Plan

Ongoing Tasks for All Phases

Task 8: Ongoing Coordination with Conservancy and Project Team

Optional Task

Optional Task A: Present Draft Objectives and Strategies at a Regional Meeting

Deliverables

The expected deliverables are:

1. A Work Plan for the project.
2. Research and interviews resulting in topic specific issue papers.
3. Five (5) county-level public meetings to introduce the Strategic Plan and receive public input.
4. Three (3) draft alternative futures for the Delta, with preliminary objectives and strategies. This incorporates multiple work sessions with the Subcommittee or work groups and possibly arranging expert panel presentations.
5. Two (2) working draft versions of the Strategic Plan. This includes incorporating comments and changes from Conservancy staff, Subcommittee, work groups, Board members, and others.
6. Five (5) county-level public meetings to present the revised draft Strategic Plan content for feedback and questions. This is a second set of county-level public meetings.
7. Final Strategic Plan. This includes an interim version presented to the Subcommittee and Board for comments and refinements prior to presenting the completed version to the Board by its June 2012 meeting.
8. One (1) regional meeting in support of the Strategic Plan (optional).

Attachment 10.1B: Questions from the August Community Outreach Meetings

August Community Meetings' Questions & Comments

Water (19 questions/comments)

Flow of water is what sustains the Delta. It will be difficult for locals to support the Conservancy if it "doesn't get its foot in the water."

How do we stop Southern California from stealing our water and killing our fish? Promise of Delta adaptability is fresh water; without it we're done.

How can any of this vision be realized without water?

No problem with Delta; We want Southern California to leave us alone. Objective not to sell all of our water. Leave us alone.

Conservancy as mop-up crew. Nothing Conservancy can do to help [Delta residents].

Still will take water.

State only interested in tunnel, not interested in real help.

Decision is already made.

Delta water table is being lowered. Southern California isn't going to take our water.

Water export key issue in the Delta; can't meet your objectives if 15,000 cfs is taken out of Delta.

Basic premise is flawed, why lack of participation; back to water exports issue.

- Ensure water delivery within the Delta.
- Could Conservancy study water exports only during surplus?
- Where does the Conservancy stand if pumps at Freeport bypass Delta-major conflict with Conservancy mandates (e.g. water quality).
- Does Conservancy endorse the peripheral canal? Conservancy neutrality on peripheral canal doesn't make sense.
- DWR has authority/power to build canal no matter what.
- If such bad water quality in Delta Meadows, why still take water out? Keep it simple, see if more water addresses the issue.
- Why are gates still allowed in the Delta (1892 decision navigable water)

About the Delta Conservancy (21 questions/comments)

- What does [the Delta Conservancy] plan to do with the Strategic Plan; where is it going? What does Conservancy do, regarding future development? Point of Strategic Plan is unknown to audience Conservancy is trying to reach; why and what trying to produce; a lot of pressing issues. Don't know a damn thing about what its like here in the Delta. Delta residents work hard; adapt and use the Conservancy to move forward. How do we find a state agency to advocate for the Delta? Need to figure out how to make Conservancy Delta friend.
- Describe how Conservancy was developed. How long will the Conservancy be here? How is it funded?

- Where does the Conservancy fit? Tug of war to make Conservancy relevant (DC-DPC-DSC)
How are the groups related to each other? (unsure what 'groups' they were referring to)
How would these groups work together?
- What happens to the Delta Conservancy if it doesn't meet its objectives in the next two years
- What is Conservancy's role regarding restoration and economic development (other agencies)?
- Is the Conservancy taking over the Big Tent effort?
- Does Conservancy have power to condemn property?
- Don't schedule workshops in August, September, October – harvest conflicts. People in Delta work day and night; very time constrained. Can you commit to convening gatherings in the evenings and weekends (workgroups, workshops)?
- All elements of mandates intersect in the Delta; you come to them, don't ask them to come to you.
- Are you aware of other State Conservancies that are funded by fee?

Economic Development (10 questions/comments)

- The Economic Sustainability Plan—what projects would not be considered, and which of [your] two goals has priority? What will the future regulatory environment look like?
- Is there funding for start up businesses in the Delta?
- Describe/define economic development (gas station, Macys)
- Define “promoting Delta legacy communities”
- What priorities does the Conservancy have for the boating industry? Boating is key to the economy in the Delta and there are a lot of factors against it right now. Need to get the middle class and young people back into boating; its not just a rich person's hobby. & Boat launch upkeep.
- Will we be creating our own buffer zones to protect traditional agriculture? Highway 160 conflicts with farm equipment on road with tourists. Will Conservancy be an advocate for agriculture protection programs? (e.g. subventions, Williamson Act) If not, why not? Utopian; can't open levees to fishermen because of trash, fire pits,. Family picnic in tomato field – who will police this? Had to block off levees. Who will be the traffic cop? Problem not being enhanced.
- Environmental always seems to win out in conflicts between environment and economic.
- Agriculture, Recreation Tourism not equal; tremendous conflicts; agriculture is foremost.(Clarksburg)

Resilience to Floods and Natural Disasters (6 questions/comments)

- What about flood insurance or natural disaster assistance?
- Suggestion that Conservancy help get flyers in flood insurance envelopes with suggestions on how to help our neighbors during a flood

- Someone needs to be persistent about getting the message out
 - Someone needs to get the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on our side—its just one door that needs to be opened.
 - Fix levees, don't take away subventions money.
- Lay context/foundation for levees 100 year protection.

Ecosystem and the Environment (7 questions/comments)

- Will Conservancy be involved in the Corps policy of removing vegetation on levees?
What can be done about the dumping in the Delta houseboats?
We don't want outside groups telling us how to care for our environment.
Who would want to restore Delta to all tules? Better to prevent lower Delta from becoming inland salt/sea.
We need someone to advocate for more water assists, consistent with ecosystem mandate.
- Let's not talk about climate change is a joke – it is a joke. Climate change is not happening.
 - What are the pellets being used by the Department of Boating and Waterways in Bethel Island and Discovery Bay?

About the Delta Conservancy (21 questions/comments)

- Describe how Conservancy was developed. How long will the Conservancy be here? How is it funded?
- How are the Delta Conservancy, Delta Protection Commission and the Delta Stewardship Council related to each other? How will they work together? What is Conservancy's role regarding restoration and economic development with the other agencies?
- What happens to the Delta Conservancy if it doesn't meet its objectives in the next two years?
- Is the Conservancy taking over the Big Tent effort?
- Does Conservancy have power to condemn property?
- Avoid scheduling workshops during harvest (August, September, October). People in Delta work day and night; very time constrained. Can you commit to convening workshops and workgroups in the evenings and weekends? All elements of mandates intersect in the Delta; you need to come to us, not ask us to come to you.
- Are you aware of other State Conservancies that are funded by fees?

Political Strategies (6 questions/comments)

- Who at the Capitol do we need to set a fire under to get things done?
- What about grant funding—if there are still dollars left in a grant program, can the Conservancy help with applications past the application deadline (reopen/reapply)?

What has changed to put Bethel Island in the primary zone; it wasn't originally in the primary zone?

Would legislature listen to Conservancy regarding water export? Does it have juice?

Explain "legislative amendment language".

Difference between urban and rural understanding of the Delta?

Other (5 questions/comments)

- Where do we find information about geographic/natural history of the Delta (ref. Datra book)?
- What are some government organizations that provide these grants?
- Could a reclamation district attend the grant writing workshop?
- *[Delta residents]* have done a lot in this community. We used to have mud roads in winter, three automobile agencies, lot of people; Jefferson Blvd. [had a steady stream of cars]. You have no idea what we've accomplished. State fix Highway 84.
- Do we have a criteria regarding public versus private land? What is the implication of passing private land to public land, especially when public land is not well managed?

Attachment 10.1C: Memo to CSU-Sacramento Executive Fellows Program



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Delta Protection Commission

Date: August 23, 2011

To: Mark Grisby, Director
Executive Fellows Program, CSU-Sacramento

From: Campbell Ingram, Executive Officer
Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy

Subject: Proposed Group Project for Executive Fellows Academic Work

Thank you for the meeting last week to discuss the possibility of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy (Conservancy) being the recipient/subject of a group project conducted by the CSU-Sacramento Executive Fellows Program participants. To confirm my understanding of this effort, the Executive Fellows Program is looking for suitable projects that will give its participants (6-9 in a group) a substantive work experience that results in an end-of-term deliverable that is also relevant and useful to the subject agency for which they would be completing the work. This group project is extra curricular to the groups' individual fellowships and the completed work would constitute a part of their academic grade.

As we discussed last week, the Conservancy proposes its "Policy Development Research Unit" as a potential group project that would mutually benefit both programs.

The Policy Development Research Unit would investigate up to three (3) policy issues relevant to the Conservancy's Strategic Plan. Their research efforts would include conducting literature searches to identify existing relevant policies; interviewing key officials or

stakeholders to determine existing conditions and desired policy changes; developing metrics, criteria, and a list of potential financing needs and resources; and providing recommendations regarding potential legislation. The final deliverable will be an oral presentation at the Conservancy's Board (or Subcommittee) meeting in May 2012; milestone deliverables include a white paper (no more than 30 pages) for each of the policy issues selected.

Two topics of interest to the Conservancy are (1) law enforcement issues related to public access to lands adjacent to private property as well as enforcement issues related to recreational use of Delta levees, roads and waterways and (2) partnership opportunities for the Conservancy with the Delta Protection Commission to complete the Great Delta Trail bike trail that would connect the Bay Area bike trail with the American River Bike Trail. A third issue could be decided by the Conservancy and the unit as it reviews the results of several Delta stakeholder meetings.

The Conservancy proposes this simplified work plan to indicate key milestones:

December: Meet with unit to confirm work projects and develop work plan
January: Unit members conduct research and interviews; meets with Policy Subcommittee
February: Present outlines of the white papers to the Policy Subcommittee
March: Present first draft of the white papers to the Policy Subcommittee
April: Revise and complete all the white papers; provide copies to the Policy Subcommittee
May: Present summary and recommendations to the Policy Subcommittee or full Board (depending upon Board's schedule)

Myself and Nancy Ullrey, program manager, will be available to assist the unit with direction, feedback, and review of their on-going work as they complete the project.

We believe that this project will provide benefit to both the participants in the Executive Fellows program and the Conservancy.

If you have additional questions about this proposal, please contact me at (916) 375-2089 or Nancy Ullrey at (916) 375-2087.